

Table 4a: Puget Sound 2005-2007 Enhancement Requests by Funding Source

The Puget Sound Council recommended the rankings shown below for enhancement requests from the state General Fund and the Water Quality Account. The Puget Sound Action Team will discuss the ranking for possible approval on October 5, 2004. The pages that follow include detailed information on the proposed enhancements.

Funding Source	Agency	Budget Code	Activity	Amount (dollars)	Puget Sound Council Ranking
General Fund – State	Fish and Wildlife	DFW-07	Orca Conservation, Recovery, and Monitoring	300,000	4
		DFW-12	Puget Sound Nearshore Restoration Project	291,573	5
		DFW-13	Puget Sound Technical Assistance: Environmental Engineering	170,000	6
		DFW-14	Ecoregional Assessment Implementation – Assistance to counties	400,000	7
		DFW-15	Puget Sound Marine Fish Recovery	800,000	8
	Puget Sound Action Team Staff	PSAT-02	Ballast Water Committee staff support	25,000	9
		PSAT-07	Hood Canal Corrective Action Fund to address low dissolved oxygen problems.	500,000	1
	Washington Sea Grant	UW-01	Water Quality Field Agents – Covers cost of inflation for two field agents.	30,000	2
	WSU Extension	WSU-01	Water Quality Field Agents – Covers cost of inflation for three field agents.	89,000	2
	Total General Fund State			2,605,573	
Water Quality Account – Operating	Puget Sound Action Team	PSAT-06	Public Involvement and Education (PIE) fund increase for community-based education projects	300,000	3
	Total Water Quality Account			300,000	
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	Natural Resources	DNR-01	Nearshore Habitat Monitoring – Expand eelgrass monitoring	345,100	Not ranked

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Funding Source	Agency	Budget Code	Activity	Amount (dollars)	Puget Sound Council Ranking
		DNR-05 Non proviso	Aquatic Reserves Management – Funding to implement management plans	396,200	Not ranked
Total Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account				741,300	
General Fund-Federal	Puget Sound Action Team	PSAT-07	Hood Canal Corrective Actions to address low dissolved oxygen problems.	500,000	Not ranked
Oil Spill Prevention Account	Washington Sea Grant Program	UW-02	Oil Spill Prevention Education –	17,000	Not ranked
			Total All Funding Sources	4,163,873	

Note: Enhancement requests listed above do not include:

- 1) Statewide enhancement requests (see Table 4b),
- 2) The adjustments provided by the Department of Health of \$63,928 for costs incurred for relocation; and
- 3) Ecology shift in funding for ambient monitoring and laboratory certification of \$322,976 to the Water Quality Account due to the loss of the State Drought Preparedness Account.

Table 4b: 2005-2007 Statewide Enhancement Requests with Benefits to Puget Sound

The enhancement requests listed below are submitted voluntarily by agencies for statewide programs that support the priorities and achieve the results of this work plan. These enhancement requests are not ranked and are not included in the Puget Sound work plan budget (shown in Tables 1-3).

Agency	Budget Code	Proposed Activity	Budget Enhancement	Funding Source
Conservation Commission		Livestock Nutrient Management Tech Assistance/Project Design	762,640	WQA-Operating
		Livestock Nutrient Management Landowner Cost-share	3,007,600	WQA-Capital
		Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Technical Assistance	100,000	GF-S
		Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Implementation	4,000,000	SBCA-057
		Water Quality Implementation Grants to Conservation Districts	500,000	WQA-Capital
Ecology	DOE-06	Stormwater Program – Implement changes in municipal and industrial stormwater permits in accordance with federal regulations (Phase II permits)	198,000	General Fund- State
			3,621,000	Water Quality – Private Fund
	DOE-13	PBT Strategy – Reduce persistent bio-accumulative toxins (PBTs) in the environment.	876,000	STCA
	DOE-11	Shoreline Management Act – Funding for local government grants for updating Shoreline Master Programs.	1,391,000	GF-S
Natural Resources	DNR-04	Seagrass management plan	369,200	ALEA
Total statewide enhancement requests			\$14,825,440	

**Detailed information on enhancement requests
with recommended rankings by Puget Sound Council
for October 4, 2004 Puget Sound Action Team meeting
September 28, 2004**

Discussion criteria for ranking enhancements:

1. Achieves significant progress on a core priority.
2. Responds to a critical opportunity or urgent need.
3. Achieves or contributes to achieving at least one result listed under the priorities.
4. Leverages funding from non-state sources.
5. Leverages interagency projects and cooperative projects with federal, tribal and/or local governments.
6. Maintains a crucial existing activity, even if not a core priority.
7. Includes enhancements proposed for funding from state General Fund and Water Quality Account.

The information below was derived from agency decision packages and/or Puget Sound work plan budget submittals

Puget Sound Action Team staff	PSAT-07	Hood Canal Corrective Action Fund	500,000 GF-S
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Hood Canal is in the throes of a growing environmental crisis due to increasing nitrogen levels in its waters. The nitrogen fuels growth of algae and plankton, which ultimately rob the water of the dissolved oxygen necessary to sustain marine life. Large-scale fish kills have evidenced the effects of this crisis in the summers of 2003 and 2004. After the 2003 fish kill, the Action Team worked to help coordinate the state's efforts to respond to this environmental problem. In the fall of 2003, PSAT led a multi-agency process to develop an assessment of the human sources of the nitrogen pollution and to outline potential corrective actions that could be undertaken to address the problem. The corrective actions plan focused on reducing key human sources of nutrient and nitrogen pollution. PSAT then sought and received \$500,000 of federal funds and \$100,000 of state funds to fund design, development and beginning implementation of an array of corrective actions.

This proposed funding would allow the Action Team to continue to do this critically important work, making funding available to work with tribes, local governments, other state agencies and a variety of non-governmental and private sector interests to design and implement corrective actions on the ground. By making adjustments to the assignments of our existing staff, we were able to make all \$600,000 dollars of the current biennium's money available through a competitive process directly to entities addressing nitrogen and nutrient pollution. We anticipate being able to maintain that same standard of committing 100 percent of the new funding to on-the-ground corrective actions. The funds being requested from the state are necessary to match the federal dollars.

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As part of the Priorities of Government process the Action Team led an interagency effort to present a unified state program for Hood Canal and to identify gaps and needs. Within that exercise we looked at a number of alternatives to help improve the waters of Hood Canal and some of them will be forwarded as part of POG. None of the other alternatives developed in that POG process address the particular and urgent need to fund corrective actions on the ground.

Puget Sound Priorities: This activity supports Puget Sound Priority 4: "Reduce nutrient and pathogen pollution caused by human sewage and animal wastes." It directly contributes to the Puget Sound work plan priority to reduce nutrients and pathogens in a geographic priority area under significant threat. It provides funds to directly address problems at the local level, where they can best be solved. It also aligns with a strategy under that priority: "Focus Action Team partnership efforts and resources geographically, in high risk locations such as Hood Canal, in threatened or contaminated shellfish harvest areas, and in streams where state and local partners can carry out water clean up plans and shellfish restoration strategies to reduce loadings. "

Washington Sea Grant Program	UW-01	Water Quality Field Agents 10% increase to cover costs of inflation for two agents	30,000 GF-S
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This activity provides funding for Water Quality Field Agents in Mason and Kitsap Counties. The field agents work to implement the Puget Sound work plan and management plan. Since 1990, the Washington Sea Grant Program (WSGP) has delivered public involvement, education and technology transfer programs on water quality issues in cooperation with WSU-Extension and county governments in Mason, - Kitsap Jefferson, Thurston, and Pierce counties. The WSGP program addresses water resources associated with rural, urban and urbanizing areas with marine waters. Program topics include habitat loss, shoreline stewardship, restoration, non-point source pollution, watershed planning, fish, shellfish seaweeds and tidal plants of Puget Sound. Two Sea Grant field agents work in tandem with WSU-Extension field staff and PSAT local liaisons to combine their expertise and resources to provide technical assistance, public information, and educational programs to local governments, tribes, industries, schools, water resource users and community groups

WSGP water quality field agents, in coordination with other entities, will conduct the following activities:

- Provide workshops, create reference materials, and provide technical assistance to shoreline residents in nearshore and intertidal restoration and enhancement, stewardship, stormwater management, elimination of organic debris and watershed management in Kitsap and Mason counties.
- Coordinate Kitsap Nearshore Outreach Group and provide professional development opportunities for its members.
- Coordinate Water Festival, Salmon Tours and Kids' Day at OysterFest.
- Create a citizen based estuarine monitoring program to provide water quality data to agencies
- Collaborate to create a low impact development demonstration site in Kitsap County.
- Coordinate work sessions for local health/public works staff on to pet waste issues.

- Coordinate a citizen-based shellfish monitoring program to provide shellfish quality data to tideland owners.

Puget Sound Priorities: This work in public involvement and education directly supports priorities 3: "Reduce harm from stormwater runoff;" priority 4: "Prevent nutrient and pathogen pollution caused by human and animal wastes;" priority 5: "Protect shorelines and other critical areas that provide important ecological functions;" and priority 6: "Restore degraded nearshore and freshwater habitats." The field agents' work also supports priority 7, educating and involving communities in salmon recovery, orca, forage fish and groundfish conservation and recovery. With so many state and local programs for education cut back in recent budget shortfalls, the role of the field agents is critical to maintaining and supporting education to reach the public and build public support in these communities. They are able to rapidly respond to emerging events such as Hood Canal low DO or shellfish closures with experience and an ability to coordinate community education resources.

WSU Extension	WSU-01	Water Quality Field Agents – To cover increased costs of salaries and overhead for three agents	89,000 GF-S
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This activity provides funding for three Water Quality Field Agents in Mason, Pierce, Jefferson and Thurston Counties. The field agents work to implement the Puget Sound work plan and management plan. A budget enhancement of \$89,000 would enable WSU to keep three agents serving the current region (Pierce, Jefferson, Mason and Thurston Counties). Since 1991, this program budget has only seen an increase of 10%, and thus has not kept up with the costs of keeping the program fully staffed. A budget analysis has determined that \$420,000 is necessary to provide three field agents in the 2005-2007 biennium.

WSU Extension uses federal, state, local and private funds, as well as a wealth of volunteer time and resources to promote environmental stewardship. Programs include volunteer training programs, technical assistance to landowners and professionals on agricultural and landscape management issues, as well as public education and youth development programs directly related to environmental stewardship. These programs include the 4-H program, Master Gardener program, Forest Stewardship Training, Real Estate Professional Training, Pesticide Applicators training, as well as a range of independent programs targeting improved environmental management. WSU Extension utilizes proviso funding to provide the base funding for 3 Water Resource Field Agents who develop educational and technical assistance programs targeting priority Puget Sound issues at the local level. The field agents incorporate water resource stewardship into the full range of WSU programs within the region they serve (Pierce, Jefferson, Mason and Thurston Counties), as well as act as a resource for other WSU Extension programs in Puget Sound Counties.

The three field agents provide specific water resource protection training programs for Water Watcher volunteers, Master Gardener volunteers, 4-H programs, Native Plant Salvage Project volunteers and Real Estate Professionals in the region. In addition, the field agents provide technical assistance to watershed planning units, local watershed organizations, county and city staff, and decision makers. Activities also include broader

public outreach through newspaper articles, radio spots, fair booths and topic specific public workshops.

Puget Sound Priorities: This work in public involvement and education directly supports Puget Sound priorities 3: "Reduce harm from stormwater runoff;" priority 4: "Prevent nutrient and pathogen pollution caused by human and animal wastes;" priority 5: "Protect shorelines and other critical areas that provide important ecological functions;" and priority 6: "Restore degraded nearshore and freshwater habitats." The field agents' work also supports priority 7: "conserve and recover orca, salmon, forage fish and groundfish," educating and involving communities in conservation and recovery of these species. The role of the field agents is critical to maintaining and supporting education to reach the public and build public support in these communities, especially underserved audiences such as realtors. They are able to quickly respond to emerging events such as Hood Canal low DO or shellfish closures with experience and an ability to coordinate community education resources.

Puget Sound Action Team	PSAT-06	Public Involvement and Education (PIE) fund increase for community-based education projects.	300,000 WQA
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Public Involvement and Education (PIE) funds have not kept pace with continued and increased public interest. Citizens want to get more involved in their communities and find solutions to serious water quality and habitat protection issues that are harming Puget Sound: stormwater runoff, toxic contamination, diminishing nearshore habitat, and decreased populations of salmon, orcas and other aquatic life. During the 2003-05 biennium, for the large award program (up to \$45,000 per project) applicants submitted 117 proposals requesting a total of \$3.2 million. The Action Team was only able to fund 15 proposals, or 14% of the funding requested. During the Action Team's small awards funding cycle in Spring 2004, applicants submitted 46 proposals requesting \$130,000. Due to this high demand, the Action Team reprioritized funding and increased the total awards from \$20,000 to \$36,000. A total of \$40,000 will be awarded during the upcoming 2004 Fall funding cycle.

The Action Team funds projects for local and tribal governments, businesses, trade associations, environmental and community groups, and interested individual and organizations. PIE projects will reach an estimated 50,000 citizens without the proposed enhancements, and 65,000 citizens with the additional funds with education directed at behavior change and to raise awareness around Puget Sound priorities. The majority of the education and public involvement projects focus on preventing pollution and habitat loss, which is far less costly than cleaning up pollution and restoring habitat.

The legislature originally authorized the PIE fund at \$1.1 million in the 1987-89 biennium. The current budget is \$700,000, which is split between non-competitive public involvement and education projects and a competitive funding process that awards successful applicants through personal services contracts. The supplemental funding request of \$300,000 would be directed entirely to increasing the competitive funding base to historic levels, passing funding on to local communities to support community-based education projects.

There is a large unmet need for environmental education in Puget Sound. Nonpoint sources of pollution or activities which individuals cause is the primary pollution problem in the Sound. Therefore, involving and educating people about the problems and what they can do to reduce pollution and improve habitat is a key to improve the health of the Sound.

Puget Sound Priorities: This activity serves all the priorities, especially priority 3: "Reduce the harm from stormwater runoff," priority 4: "Prevent nutrient and pathogen pollution caused by human and animal waste," priority 5: "Protect shorelines and other critical areas that provide important ecological functions," and priority 6: "Restore degraded nearshore and freshwater habitat." Public education and involvement are key to solving many of the pollution and habitat loss problems threatening and harming the health of the Sound. PIE activities support Water Cleanup Plans for degraded water bodies, they engage residents in supporting environmental programs, and they build community around long-term protection of Puget Sound.

Fish and Wildlife	DFW-07	Orca Conservation, Recovery and Monitoring	300,000 GF-S
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The southern resident orca population that occurs in the marine waters of Washington State and Canada has undergone an 18% decline in recent years. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission and Canada have listed it as an endangered species, it has been designated as a depleted stock by NOAA Fisheries, and it is under a second review for possible listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. Contaminants, harassment, and prey declines have been identified as possible factors in the decline. The WDFW and PSAT partners have a role in developing and implementing recovery strategies and actions to achieve orca recovery. This project will complete and begin implementing an orca recovery plan with specified management actions and an identified schedule. Research needed to aid conservation and recovery of the orca will be conducted, information transferred to federal, state, tribal and local governments and citizens and the status and trends of recovery of the endangered orca population will be monitored.

Complete a state recovery plan for the orca in Washington. Work the NOAA Fisheries and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to develop and implement orca recovery/conservation plans. Continue contaminant monitoring in upper trophic level marine mammals (harbor seals) to monitor contaminant levels and types in the Puget Sound ecosystem inhabited by orcas. Conduct studies of orca diet and winter distribution and input orca sightings into the WDFW data system, including use and support of volunteer citizen science. Educate boaters and whale-watchers to prevent harassment of orcas.

Puget Sound Priorities: This project would identify and implement recovery actions needed to restore the orca population in Puget Sound to healthy levels. A recovery plan would be developed for the orca in Washington and identified recovery actions for the state would be implemented. Scientific information will be made available to make management decisions affecting the orca and the Puget Sound ecosystem they occupy.

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Long-term benefits will be the protection and increase in numbers of the orca population to achieve recovery levels. (All related to Priority 7: Results A, E, F.)

Fish and Wildlife	DFW-12	Puget Sound Nearshore Restoration Project	291,573 GF-S
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This program will analyze the combination of spatially explicit large-scale restoration actions from a broad list of candidate projects. The evaluation of these proposed large scale restoration actions will require federal assistance through the US Army Corps of Engineer's planning formulation process, i.e. General Investigation (GI).

The GI study process provides the opportunity to study and recommend other actions outside restoration, including protection of nearshore areas or changes in shoreline management. It is anticipated that the list will be an iterative process, and that future actions will become more specific as the results of already implemented demonstration projects emerge. Funding appropriated will provide local sponsor project management and in-kind state match to Stage II technical studies.

WDFW anticipates development of a list of strategic, process-based, ecosystem scale restoration actions. These actions are organized as portfolios, or a series or grouping of different action types for a particular portion of the Puget Sound Nearshore.

Portfolios will be developed in response to the Strategic Needs Assessment (what needs to be done where) and the Restoration Objectives (how much needs to be done). The Nearshore Portfolio is considered to include both large-scale restoration actions requiring significant new federal assistance (GI Portfolio or top-down planning) and smaller scale actions that would be implemented at local or community scales (bottom-up) of action.

Puget Sound Priorities: This activity supports Puget Sound priority 6: "Restore degraded nearshore and freshwater habitat," in particular the strategy related to the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP). It directly supports PSNERP Result B2: "Partners complete a feasibility report and pursue enactment of an approach for implementing strategic, large-scale projects to restore processes that create and sustain nearshore habitats."

Fish and Wildlife	DFW-13	Puget Sound Technical Assistance: Environmental Engineering	170,000 GF-S
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This funding provides environmental engineering technical assistance in Puget Sound to local governments, local salmonid recovery groups (Lead Entities, project sponsors), watershed groups, WDFW biologists, including Watershed Stewards, and others regarding engineering design of salmonid protection/restoration projects, and other freshwater, estuary, nearshore, and marine shoreline habitat projects. It also provides environmental engineering technical assistance related to hydropower re-licensing in the Puget Sound region. Environmental engineering technical assistance will help ensure that freshwater and estuarine habitat restoration projects are designed and constructed in a manner that promotes resource protection and ecological function.

This funding will provide environmental engineering technical assistance to:

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- WDFW biologists and to HPA applicants on complex project proposals that have potential to adversely affect habitat, to identify and promote project design alternatives that provide increased habitat protection,
- Lead Entities and habitat project sponsors to promote habitat project development and design that is consistent with project guidance advocated by WDFW that results in permissible projects that protect natural resources and ecological function,
- Lead Entities, and local, state, and federal governments to develop habitat restoration guidelines, plans, and strategies that will programmatically provide environmental protection, and
- Hydropower re-licensing efforts to ensure that mitigation project intent and designs protect resources.

This effort will provide environmental technical assistance an approximately 150 habitat project proposals, 10 guidelines/strategies/plans, and 6 hydropower re-licensing efforts per year.

Puget Sound Priorities: This activity supports Priority 5: “Protect shorelines and other critical areas that provide important ecological functions” by providing technical assistance, permit review and HPA issuance for local governments and education to citizens; priority 6: “Restore degraded nearshore and freshwater habitat” through engineering for projects that restore natural habitat forming processes in estuaries, riparian areas, drift cells, shorelines, rivers, and streams; and priority 7: “Conserve and recover orca, salmon, forage fish and groundfish” through review of hydropower re-licensing projects to be consistent with salmon recovery.

Fish and Wildlife	DFW-14	ECA (Ecoregional Assessment) Implementation – Assistance to counties	400,000 GF-S
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More than 50% of the land in the Puget Trough has been converted to urban and agricultural uses. Land use activities in the associated uplands affect Puget Sound waters and fish and wildlife populations. County governments have the authority to guide and control growth and land use across the landscape. Under the Growth Management Act, Puget Sound counties are required to update their critical areas ordinances by the end of 2005. WDFW has significant new data relevant to this effort. The Puget Trough Ecoregional Assessment compiled most of these data and prioritized terrestrial, freshwater, and nearshore habitats of ecoregional significance. To help implement the ecoregional assessment, WDFW developed a pilot project in Kitsap County that maps the relative value of habitats within the county and integrates areas of ecoregional significance with habitats of local importance. This funding would allow WDFW to provide other Puget Sound counties with the same level of priority habitat mapping to use in comprehensive land use plans and critical areas designation. This project also fulfills the recommendation of the State Biodiversity Conservation Committee to “provide greater support to local government in conserving biodiversity”.

Funded activities would develop local habitat assessments for Puget Sound counties. It would incorporate nearshore habitat mapping into this computer-based GIS product that can be updated in the future, and develop landscape-scale habitat management recommendations to help counties protect priority habitats.

Puget Sound Priorities: This activity supports Priority 5: “Protect shorelines and other critical areas that provide important ecological function.” Results directly supported include the increase in acres of ecologically important land permanently protected, using eco-regional planning as a tool to identify critical ecologically important lands and marine areas, and developing a landscape-scale computer-based tool for assessing projects and identifying critical areas for protection.

Fish and Wildlife	DFW-15	Puget Sound Marine Fish Recovery	800,000 GF-S
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This program expands the basic scientific approaches to stock assessment, long-term monitoring, and management of Puget Sound marine fish populations to include monitoring key species or areas that are not currently assessed. These activities will improve the scientific basis for marine fish management that will lead to large-scale synoptic surveys and the development of measurement parameters for demographic models of key fish species. These models and enhanced survey results will improve fishery management decisions that balance harvest rates with mortality and demographic schedules that are not currently obtainable at existing funding levels.

Agency staff will expand existing bottom trawl and video surveys to gain a synoptic picture of groundfish abundance on a basin-wide scale annually. *Current base funding only allows for surveys in portions of northern or southern Puget Sound. While current survey results are useful, they only capture a portion of the populations that inhabit whole portions of northern and southern Puget Sound. In addition, current baseline surveys do not sample near-shore habitats less than 30 feet in depth.* A new bottom trawl survey of the shallow near-shore area will provide, for the first time, the ability to estimate the abundance of near-shore marine bottomfish on a regional scale that will complement the larger on-going bottom trawl surveys. This enhanced funding will also re-institute scientific acoustic surveys for Pacific whiting, an ESA Candidate species, and ensure that acoustic surveys for Pacific herring will continue. Recreational monitoring of marine fish catches will be further expanded and a special program monitoring rockfish recruitment will be instituted.

An expanded near-shore quantitative video survey of rocky habitats will be conducted to estimate the abundance and define the distribution of rockfish, lingcod, and other rocky habitat species on a basin-wide scale within one year. This survey will complement the current effort level of video survey so that the northern and Puget Sound basins can be surveyed every year on a rotating basis. The surveys will be in the same regions as the bottom trawl surveys.

Trawl and video surveys will be conducted every other year in Hood Canal and will provide information to help evaluate the impact of low dissolved oxygen on marine life. Other activities include assessing the abundance Pacific whiting in Port Susan and adjacent waters using an acoustic mid-water trawl survey, and assessing the abundance of Pacific herring in Puget Sound, particularly for Cherry Point stock, using an acoustic mid-water trawl survey.

Puget Sound Priorities: This activity directly supports Puget Sound priority 7, “Conserve and recovery orca, salmon, forage fish and groundfish” by developing

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information needed to manage and protect marine fish, conducting research related to conserving and recovering species at risk, and monitoring species abundance and distribution, particularly groundfish and herring. It also supports the Role of Science in providing status and trends data for forage fish and ground fish and other species. The work in Hood Canal will contribute to results for Priority 4 related to the low dissolved oxygen problems.

Puget Sound Action Team Staff	PSAT-02	Ballast Water Committee staff support	25,000 GF-S
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Ballast water is water that ships take onboard maintain stability, trim and structural integrity. This water and the organisms in the water can be taken on in foreign ports and discharged in Washington waters. Ballast water is the probably largest single vector by which nonnative plants and animals are introduced to our waters. Nonnative plants and animals can disrupt the ecosystem and the species that depend on a healthy Puget Sound. Implementing an effective ballast water management program will minimize these effects.

The ballast water report will provide legislative decision-makers with information to develop appropriate policy to implement an effective program for managing the discharge of ballast water to state waters through a combination of technology improvements, effective ballast water treatment standards and better coordination with regional, national and international efforts to manage ballast water.

This is a one-time activity to be carried out by a contractor working for the legislatively mandated Ballast Water Work Group. PSAT can provide basic committee support within existing resources for the 05-07 biennium. The work group will study ballast water management issues and make recommendations related to (a) all issues relating to ballast water technology, including exchange and treatment methods, treatment plans, and the associated costs; (b) The services needed by the industry and the state to protect the marine environment, including penalties and enforcement; and (c) The costs associated with, and possible funding methods for, implementing the ballast water program.

The legislature transferred the responsibility of staffing the ballast water work group from the Department of Fish and Wildlife to the Action Team staff. This is a new task and an added workload for the Action Team staff. The Action Team anticipates staffing six meetings per year through the date of the required report, December 2006. Preparation and production of the detailed report called for by the legislation is beyond the capacity of existing staff. The Action Team will contract the work out.

Puget Sound Priorities: This activity addresses Priority 5: "Protect shorelines and other critical areas that provide important ecological functions" in the 2005-2007 Puget Sound work plan. Result B.5 is "a report with recommendations for managing ballast water" that is submitted to the legislature, in support of the strategy to prevent the introduction of new aquatic nuisance species. It also addresses the Governor's ninth priority for government – to improve the quality of Washington's natural resources. There are overlapping benefits to other priorities that protect shellfish, habitat, and species at risk.